REFLECTIONS

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(2)

SOME REFLECTIONS UPON A PAMPHLET, CALLED, *The OLD WHIG.*

By the Author of The Thoughts of a Member of the Lower Houſe.

[R. Walpole.]

The Ills that I have done cannot be ſafe,
But by attempting greater; and I find
A Spirit within me chides my ſluggiſh Hands,
And ſays, Go on.
Vid. *Catiline*'s Conſpiracy.

Flectere ſi nequeo Superos, Acheronta movebo.

The SECOND EDITION.

LONDON,
Printed for J. ROBERTS, near the *Oxford-Arms* in *Warwick-Lane*. 1719.
(Price Three Pence.)

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Some Reflections upon a Pamphlet, call'd, The Old Whig, *&c.*

SINCE the publiſhing of *The Thoughts*, the Town has been informed by two Pamphlets on the other ſide; one intitled, *Conſiderations*, &c. and the other, *The Old Whig*. The laſt Gen-

Gentleman ſeems to be ſenſible of his Defect in point of Length, and ſo promiſes another; which puts me in mind of a Country Girl who offer'd her Service to a Belle Lady. This Lady being over-nice, obſerved to the Wench that ſhe made her Courteſies but very aukwardly: To which the other reply'd, *Indeed, Madam, I make them very ill, but you ſhall have the more of them, the more of them, the more of them*: And ſo ſhe duck'd for half an Hour together.

However, to do Juſtice to this Author, I acknowledge he has unanſwerably ſhewn the great Inconveniences which will happen

to

to the Crown and People, if the Lords are multiply'd too faſt: and I was in great hopes he had convinced thoſe who ſet him to work, of the Unreaſonableneſs of Creating One and Thirty; or, if he will have it ſo, but Fifteen at once; when he gives us ſuch ſhrewd Hints that we have too many already. But upon Peruſal of his Performance the ſecond time, I find that is not the thing aimed at. We have a very good Miniſtry at preſent, which God bleſs; and the Author ſeems to be of my Opinion, that we ſhall never have ſuch another: and therefore 'tis wiſe to ſecure them during their own time, and let

thoſe

thoſe who come next look to themſelves.

I find this Gentleman is of the Opinion of the Law-Books, That the Crown is always in its Infancy; and therefore it is proper to take away from it all Knives, Sciſſars, *&c.* by which it might cut its Fingers. He thinks it is no ſafer to truſt it with any Prerogative for its own Good, than for that of the People: whereas I was weak enough to believe, the Weapons for its own Preſervation could not be placed in better Hands than its own.

It's evidently the Intereſt of the Crown to make Lords enough to keep the Ballance of the Government even; and yet not ſo many, as to make them terrible to itſelf. It's as plain, in the Opinion of the Projectors themſelves, that the Crown has never yet committed an Exceſs in the latter; ſince there were never ſo many Lords as there are now, and yet by their intending to make more, they confeſs they have not enough already. But why they ſhould propheſy that for the future the Crown and all other ſubſequent Miniſters ſhall conſpire againſt themſelves as well as their Coun-

try, if ſuch a Law does not paſs, I can't imagine. As for my part, I ſhould think a Man ſtark mad, if he call'd out in the Streets *Help! Help!* that the Neighbours might come in, and hinder him from killing himſelf.

Theſe Conſiderations, I am perſuaded, would have ſome weight with our Author, if he did not think we were bleſſed with ſo foreſeeing and virtuous a Miniſtry, as could minutely hit the juſt Proportion and Ballance of Power which will exactly ſuit the ſeveral Parts of our Conſtitution at preſent, and in all Generations to come, and that

they

they will make no ill Uſe of any Power they are truſted with; to which I confeſs myſelf unable to give any Anſwer.

I agree alſo with our Author in ſeveral other uſeful Diſcoveries diſperſed throughout his Pamphlet: as, That Men of great Eſtates had rather be Lords than Commoners, and that the more of them which are taken out of the Houſe of Commons, the fewer will remain behind; That Commoners for the moſt part have more Wit than ——; That Lords have not always been made for Merit; That the more of them there are, the more Privileges there will be; (I don't ſay,

with the Author, the more Miſchief:) That any Prerogative in the Crown againſt the Publick Intereſt will do more Harm than Good; That Miniſters will do their own Buſineſs, whatever becomes of the King or People; That the Negative Power is uſeful to the Crown; That an ill King, if he has no more Wit, may throw his Troop of Horſe into the Houſe of Lords; (I pray God keep them out of the Houſe of Commons!) With ſeveral other ſeaſonable and important Maxims in Politicks, very neceſſary to be well underſtood in this Controverſy.

And

And ſo having done him all the Juſtice due from a fair Adverſary, in owning every thing which is material in his Pamphlet; I ſhall juſt hint at one or two things that I think are not ſo, and in which I cannot agree with him.

He ſays, though I admit with him that our preſent Government conſiſts of three States, yet by the Reaſoning of my Pamphlet I make them but two; and this ſeems to be his own Opinion: And the Reaſon is, according to his own Emphatical Way of Expreſſion, That the King may add a Troop of Horſe to the Lords, and then in all likelihood he may get a Ma-

Majority. But notwithſtanding this pregnant Objection, I can't help thinking the Lords are one State with a witneſs. They have an equal Power in making all Laws, and the Execution of them all in the laſt Inſtance, when they are made, without being accountable. They have the ſole Poſſeſſion of all Honours; their Perſons are like Holy Ground, Sacred, and not to be profaned or touched with Lay-Hands; and whatever they think fit to do, we muſt ſay nothing of it at the peril of *Scan' Mag'*. If they ſhould commit High Treaſon or Felony, they can't be puniſhed unleſs they have a mind to it! And as for any Judgment that can be given againſt

againſt them in other Courts for Crimes which are not Capital, they can appeal to themſelves, and ſo cannot fail of equal Juſtice. There was once upon a time a General Council of Eccleſiaſticks, (who ſure muſt be more Holy than any Laymen) who made a Canon, That the Evidence of a Layman ſhould not be valid againſt a Clergyman.

There is another thing in which this Author has expreſs'd himſelf ſo cautiouſly, that I cannot tell whether we are agreed or not. He ſays, " The three " States ſhould be intirely ſepa- " rate and diſtinct from each o- " ther, ſo that no one of them " may

" may lie too much under the " Influence and Controul of ei- " ther of the Collateral Branches." If he means by theſe ſignificant words *too much*, not at all, I beg leave to differ from him; and appeal to the Reader, whether he has not formed a State of War inſtead of a Civil State. But if he means they ought to have ſuch an Influence and Controul upon one another, as to prevent coming to Extremes, I don't ſee but we are well agreed, and I beg of him to read over my Pamphlet once more.

However, there is one Point in which I muſt beg leave to differ altogether from him, and which

which indeed is the only thing he has offered againſt my Pamphlet; *viz.* If you truſt a wiſe Body of Men with ſuch Power, they will never play Paw-paw Tricks with it. But ſince we Authors for the moſt part have more Wit than Money, which may happen to be the Caſe of my preſent Brother; I doubt he will not be able to give good City-Security for it. And therefore I recommend to his Conſideration, that in the Paper he has promiſed he will propoſe a Remedy, how we ſhall help ourſelves if it happens otherwiſe.

So I conclude, with due Deference to his Performance; which

I confeſs has ſaid not only all the Subject will admit of, but a great deal more.

FINIS.